

ACAP shuts down

The Baumholder ACAP Center will be closed for a computer system upgrade and staff training Sept. 1 through 15. Limited services such as post clearing and emergency mandatory pre-separation briefings will be available. ACAP reopens Sept. 18 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, call ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

Get a job at ACAP

The Army Career and Alumni Program is now accepting resumes for the position of ACAP Counselor at the Baumholder office. This contractor position requires a Master's Degree, two years teaching or counseling experience and computer literacy with Microsoft Word and the Internet. For details call Bobbi Curris at 485-6741.

ACAP classes

The following ACAP classes are scheduled for August:

Preparation briefing

Aug. 29 at 8:30 a.m. - noon

Job Assistance Workshop

Aug. 29, 1-4 p.m.; Aug. 30, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information contact ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783) 6-6741/6330.

ACS at a glance

Units and Agencies who would like to submit a volunteer's name for "Volunteer of the Quarter" should do so by Aug. 25 to the Installation Volunteer Coordinator,

Patty McDonald, at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

ACS is accepting applications for the Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program. For assistance in completing the form call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188. For questions regarding eligibility, call Gene Winfree at mil 485-1770 or civ (06783) 6-1770.

Story hour for children is from 10-11 a.m. Aug. 24 at the Baumholder Library.

Beginning Sept. 14, story hours will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for children ages 0 - 18 months and 10:30-11:30 for ages 19 months to school age children.

The International Spouses Club meets from 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 6 in the ACS lounge.

Army Family Team Building Level II training is Sept. 20 and 21. Level II is Aug. 23-24. Call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for location details.

A newcomers coffee is set for Sept. 5 from 10-10:30 a.m. in the ACS lounge.

An employment orientation class is offered at 9 a.m. every Monday at ACS. For details call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

ACS has new Family Advocacy Classes available for unit, individual and FSG/FRG briefings. Classes

include:

- Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition/Prevention
- Raising Responsible Kids
- Step Family Relationships
- Family Violence Prevention

For more information, call mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

ACS calendar

Aug. 22, Stress Management Class

Aug. 23, Conflict Resolution Class, Workplace Communication

Aug. 23-24, AFTB Level II

Aug. 24, Couples Communication Class, Story Hour (Library)

Aug. 25, Resumix Workshop, Planning and Budgeting

Aug. 28, Parenting

Aug. 29, Stress Management Class

Aug. 29-31, PCS Workshop

Aug. 30, Anger Management

Aug. 31, Child Safety Class

For information about classes listed or services provided, call mil 485-8188, or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Commissaries close

The Baumholder, Idar-Oberstein and Neubrücke commissaries will be closed Sept. 4 Sept. in observance of Labor Day. Since Idar-Oberstein will be closed Sept. 4 they'll reopen Sept. 5 (Their regular closure day).

Post Notes

Blood drive set

The Baumholder Red Cross holds a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 6 in the Hall of Champions.

Education update

An Advisor from the University of Maryland visits Baumholder

Sept. 6. Degree requirements and acceptance of prior college courses will be discussed with each student. Appointments are available by calling mil 485-6176 before Aug. 27.

Beam me into class

Attention all Trekkies, an astronomy class with laboratory is being offered at Baumholder during the coming semester. Enroll now before all the local earthlings fill the class.



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Diane Hardy, wife of Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, senior tactical commander, addresses guests during her recent welcome coffee.

Veteran educator takes over as Smith Principal

By Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A veteran Baumholder educator has taken over the post of principal at Smith Elementary School. Bill Rose has served as assistant principal at Wetzel Elementary School for the past four years. He is now Smith Elementary School's new principal.

Rose is no stranger to Smith because, prior to working at Wetzel, he was the assistant principal at Smith for two years.

Rose started working for DoDDS at Wetzel Elementary as a kindergarten teacher in 1981. After Wetzel he went to Ramstein for 11 years, and then came back to Smith, then he returned to Wetzel and now he's back to Smith. A pleasant smile appeared as he said, "I'm making the whole circuit."

"I look forward to working here again. I know some of the faculty already and some of them I'm meeting as they come in. It's a good faculty."

As the new principal, Rose says he will first focus on learning the goals of parents and teachers, what their focus is, and then work together to attain them.

The upcoming deployment of many Baumholder soldiers will make family participation in school activities a bit dicey this year and Rose is well aware of this. Still, Rose asks that parents participate in the education process. "I want them to work with me as well as I'm going to work with them. I want to get to know them and ask that they get involved in the school."

If they don't know already, once they become involved, parents will

learn that there's a new math program this year. But that's new for all of DoDDs this year according to Rose.

In Smith, Wetzel and Neubrücke, there will be additional help for children who speak a second language at home. "We've all been given an English as a second language teacher this year," he said.

Also new for Smith this year will be internet access in every classroom. "Every classroom will have the capacity to call up the internet and run all kinds of programs, once we get the hardware."

"We also have a few new staff members coming on board, but we lost a few from last year so the staff is staying about the same size. I think the enrollment is up though. I'm not sure what it was last year but right now we have 470 children, pre-



Photo by Ignacio "Igg" Rubalcava

Bill Rose, the new Smith principal, is no stranger to Baumholder.

kindergarten through sixth grade."

Although students are constantly being challenged at a much earlier age these days, Rose believes the biggest challenge rests with the teachers. "It's the technology issue," he said. "The children have grown up with this. It's in their house. They see it all the time."

"It's just been my experience, by watching children, that they know how to use the technology and I think we as adults are coming along and are being drawn in."

"I look forward to the challenge," he said. "I like Baumholder overall, both Wetzel and Smith have nice kids and nice families."

School's in, slow down

Baumholder schools will open Aug. 28 and the Military Police caution motorists to be on the alert for children while driving to and from physical training as well as before and after work.

Children can be unpredictable. School hours, however, are a known fact. School hours for Baumholder American High School are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hours for Smith, Neubrücke, and

Wetzel Elementary Schools are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Motorists should also keep in mind that there are extracurricular activities that can take place before and after school.

The Military Police will be running increased radar "service" in and around the schools to assist motorists that have trouble controlling their speed. So, give yourself extra time getting to your destination.

Child supervision a deployment concern

With the upcoming deployment lurking in the wings, some concerns have surfaced regarding child supervision. The following 222nd Base Support Battalion policies guide child supervision, baby sitting and curfew in the Baumholder military community, to include Neubrücke and Strassburg:

Supervision

4 years old and under

These children will be attended at all times. Supervisor must be in direct contact.

5 years old

Minimum supervision should be: see, hear and reach within two minutes.

6-8 years old and under

Indirect supervision should be close enough to see and hear from a distance and be able to check on welfare frequently.

8 years old and under

These children must be under supervision of parent, parent designee, or qualified babysitter or attending YS or SAS program (registered). They should never be left alone in quarters or vehicles.

9-11 years old

Indirect supervision is accept-

able. It's suggested that supervision be close enough to see and hear but not impede self-assurance. Supervision should be close enough to provide reassurance should a problem arise. They may be left alone for a maximum of two hours.

11 years old and under

These children will not be left alone after curfew, during hours of darkness, or 7 p.m. in the winter.

12-16 years old

Don't leave these children alone over four hours. Exceeding this time frame requires verified arrangement with a responsible adult 21 years old or older to check on the welfare in person or telephonically.

17 years old

No constraint on time left home alone.

Baby-sitting

13 years old and older

Parents are encouraged to use sitters 13 years or older that completed the Red Cross Baby-sitting Course.

13-17 years old

These baby-sitters should watch no more than two children at a time; with no more than one child

under two years old.

15 years old and younger

These sitters should not be providing overnight care.

Curfew

13 years old and under

These children must be inside home or someone else's quarters from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. unless under the supervision of a parent or guardian 21 years or older. Exceptions: returning home from a community or school organized function, community facility, YS Program official employment or responding to a bona-fide emergency.

14-17 years old

These youth will be inside home or someone else's quarters from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. unless under the supervision of a parent or guardian 21 years or older. Exceptions: returning home from a community or school organized function, community facility, YS Program official employment or responding to a bona-fide emergency.

For information regarding these policies contact Army Community Service, Child and Youth Services, Social Work Services or Provost Marshal's office.

BSB boss views deployment, MEO as priorities

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Taking command of a base support battalion is a real eye opener for most lieutenant colonels working their way up the ranks. Most are pulled from line units where they spend the majority of their time training and working with soldiers. Suddenly, they are faced with the task of commanding a unit of civilians more than 300 strong and just a handful of green suiters.

Such is the story of Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, the new 222nd Base Support Battalion commander. Before taking the reigns of the 222nd BSB, Wagenaar spent the majority of his career working and training with soldiers at the unit level.

He views the switch to working in the garrison with civilians and local community members as a positive aspect of his new job. "The good news about that is that I see things for the first time and it's easy for me to learn it. I don't have any preconceived notions. Going to the garrison command is really a good experience for people that deal with troops because you know what you see from the other side, the other perspective, and now you see it from this perspective," said Wagenaar.

Indeed, Wagenaar has received a totally different perspective on commanding an Army unit. Like most new 222nd BSB commanders, Wagenaar assumed command of the battalion during a high social time of the year.

Wagenaar and his family arrived here and Baumholder Days kicked in. Although he had not taken command, he received a preliminary exposure of things to come as he witnessed the opening ceremony that included an array of local dignitaries and German friends of the American community. Then came the change of command and the Wagenaar's shifted into high gear as the invitations to social events began to pour in.

There were invitations to participate in opening ceremonies for the Hunsrück Rallye, a keg tapping and reception for the Alt Stadt Fest

(city fest), as well as a golf date. Then there was a welcome coffee for Diane Hardy, the wife of the new senior tactical commander, and private invitations from local community members.

In spite of the blur of social commitments, the Wagenaar's took it all in stride. "I think it would have been hard if the people that held the events made it feel like it was an obligation, but it wasn't. It was, come and have fun with us and enjoy the event. There was no pressure put on me, no high expectations.

"There was a significant number of events but they were all very fun. I really enjoyed being with everybody and I felt completely at ease and completely comfortable with everybody and so did my wife," said Wagenaar.

The honeymoon is over though, and the new commander has turned his attention to the day-to-day tasks of commanding a BSB.

Styles of command are as varied and unique as the individual in charge. Every two years a new "hard charger" arrives in Baumholder to take command of the 222nd BSB. Each one brings with him a suitcase full of dreams and new ideas. Some leave with an empty suitcase, some leave with two suitcases. When asked about his ideas and expectations, Wagenaar explained that he saw no major changes for the immediate future and instead turned his emphasis to dealing with current issues.

Not pulling any punches he immediately addressed the Most Efficient Organization study, that is long overdue for completion. "The one thing I think we need to do with this MEO study is to get it finished and put behind us so we can focus on the future. I think the study is kind of dragging out a little bit ... it's overdue. It's not finished when it was supposed to be. It should have been completed, I think, a few months ago. So the biggest thing I want with the study is ... to get it completed ... so that we can tell the workers what the situation is.

"I think the best thing we can do for the work force is to let them know, give them a date, so they



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd Base Support Battalion commander, greets guests during his welcome reception.

know what the future of their jobs are. And I owe that to the workers."

In a reassuring tone he added that the goal of this study is not to cut jobs or force people out of jobs, but to look at ways of doing things better. He cautioned, though, that "There's always that possibility that certain functions may go away, or, you may lose control of them and someone else may take over the jobs."

He emphasized, however, that it is a good thing any time an organization looks at itself and looks at ways to do better and provide better service at a reduced cost.

Referring back to the uniqueness of commanding a battalion consisting primarily of civilians, Wagenaar emphasized the challenges of command rather than the uniqueness of the unit. "Each command has its own challenges and I don't think there's anything completely unique here, other than the MEO and trying to get over that... Competing with training dollars and resourcing for community support is a challenge, but it's not any different than anywhere else. You have to prioritize and make some tough choices. You have to get the resources in the right place to do the right service."

He added that commanding a BSB involves teamwork. "You cannot do this job as an individual, so I think that any challenges that we have, as a team, they'll be easier to

overcome."

Wagenaar has taken command of the 222nd BSB on the brink of a major deployment by the 2nd Brigade, a deployment that will challenge that teamwork and support of the 222nd BSB.

"One of the good things about coming to Baumholder, that I noticed, is that we have a wonderful staff here. We have a lot of great people and I have been completely amazed at the amount of work and professionalism of everybody here."

To those poised for deployment he says, "I want the soldiers to know, and the local community to know, that everybody that works in the 222nd BSB is completely committed to taking care of their families while they're deployed, to include members of the local community."

Almost echoing a previous commander's vision for the 222nd BSB, Wagenaar said, "I want to continue to have Baumholder to be the place where American service soldiers want to come and serve. I want them to make it a choice of theirs. I want Baumholder to be the Army family's assignment of choice.

"To do that, what I want to do is continue to improve the facilities, our buildings and our schools, with the help of the Department of the Army and of USAREUR. And I want to improve our training area so our soldiers can train and spend more time at home."

Wagenaar and his family knew for about a year and a half that they were coming to Baumholder so there was plenty of time to gather information about the community. "Actually, I heard mostly good things - that this is really a good place to come. That's the message I think we need to continue. It wasn't like that ten years ago. Ten years ago I was stationed in Giessen and throughout the Army, ... people used to ... talk poorly about Baumholder, the facilities and the weather."

Things are different these days and Baumholder is quickly earning a reputation as one of the Army's best kept secrets. "Everybody that has been here recently in the last five to six years talks very highly of Baumholder. That's the reputation were getting out there, so that's good. And I want to continue to build on that so people want to come to Baumholder," said Wagenaar. He pointed out that people that say bad things about Baumholder have probably never been here.

Having enjoyed their tour of Germany ten years ago, the prospect of returning to Germany filled the Wagenaar family with excitement. "We were excited to come back to Germany because we really enjoy it here," said Wagenaar.

Furthermore, Wagenaar had heard Baumholder was a great community with great local national support. He had also heard that the Army and USAREUR were putting a lot of funds into Baumholder to improve it, which is true," he said.

Wagenaar emphasized the support Americans enjoy from the local German community by saying that another of his goals is to "Continue to develop and build upon the great German relationship we have out here with our local community. It's just extremely wonderful and I want the American folks to understand how close we really are. I'm not sure we do that all the time.

"I want American folks to understand how wonderful the German people are and improve some of the communication between our communities and get more involved."

As soldiers deploy, will families deploy stateside?

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

As Baumholder's all too brief summer sunshine begins to fade into fall, the thoughts of those within the Baumholder military community increasingly turn to the approaching Kosovo deployment. For service members, this means contending with a rapid training pace and making all necessary pre-deployment preparations.

For family members, this means getting ready for life without their loved one and determining the best way to handle the separation.

For some, this brings up the question of whether or not to stay in the Baumholder community during the deployment. While returning to the United States is an option, it is one that requires serious consideration, as well as careful planning.

Any family member who wants to leave the Baumholder community for more than 60 days needs to first think about a wide variety of factors. Among those factors are housing, travel costs, vehicle storage, contact information, medical/dental care, and finances.

Contrary to popular belief, the decision to leave Baumholder is not as simple as packing up and hopping on the next flight out.

For those living in government quarters, it is necessary to first contact Housing to inform them of your intent to leave. If you want to main-

tain residency in your quarters, Housing will require you to designate someone staying in the Baumholder community to have possession of a key to your quarters and a Special Power of Attorney that authorizes them to deal with any emergencies that may arise. Otherwise, something like a broken water pipe or a fire could go from being a minor problem into becoming a major catastrophe. While away from government housing, you are also still responsible for the upkeep of the grounds surrounding your quarters.

That means that you must find someone willing to cut the grass and maintain your common areas in your absence.

A major factor to keep in mind when considering an extended stay in the United States is the travel and living costs associated with such a move. Unless you already have your orders for your next duty station and are thus eligible to apply for an early return of family members (ERD), you will most likely need to plan on covering the costs of such a move on your own.

"Deployment is not an authorized reason to go back to the States under government expense," stresses Bill Kalavsky, the 222nd BSB adjutant. He explains that only under emergency circumstances will an advanced return of family members (ARD) be approved, thus allowing a family to return to the States at government expense before permanent change of station



Photo by Ignacio "Igggy" Rubalcava

A tracked vehicle is carefully marshalled off a railroad car at Baumholder's rail head. Elements from Baumholder's 2nd Brigade returned from training last week. Training that prepares them for their deployment to Kosovo and Macedonia later this year. Will their families stay behind, or will they "deploy" back to the states?

orders have been issued.

Once a family is returned to the States at government expense, the move is only one way. Family members may only return to Europe at their own expense, and must re-submit a command sponsorship packet.

In either case, any household goods shipped back to the states at government expense can only be returned to Europe or sent on to the next duty station at the soldier's expense. Furthermore, storing

household goods at government expense will impact housing entitlements. For information regarding these issues, contact Transportation.

The decision to return stateside has other financial impacts to consider as well. One such money matter is the fact that once a family returns to the States for more than 30 days, the family's Cost of Living Allowance returns to the without dependents rate. It's important not to forget to factor such financial considerations into your decision, as they can greatly impact your standard of living.

Another property issue to keep in mind is vehicle storage. If you do choose to leave your vehicle parked here, you must first contact Vehicle Registration to have your POV registered in-op.

Before leaving, you must also remember to provide your Family Support Liaison with your stateside

contact information. Without doing so, you cannot be contacted in an emergency situation should something happen to your spouse.

Finally, you must contact Tri-Care and Dental before leaving Europe if you want to continue to receive health benefits. Medical coverage in the Army is not universal, meaning that you must disenroll in Tri-Care Europe before you can enroll in the States.

Also, dental coverage is not free for family members living in the United States, providing yet another financial matter to consider.

As you can see, deciding to go stateside while your spouse is deployed can be a costly and involved undertaking. In any case, it is something that requires serious thought and preparations. So before you pack your bags and head home, take the time to consider your options.